

Have You Secured Your Share of the Bargains at the BIG CLEARING SALE AT R.T. CURLIN'S

THE many Bargains being given at this interesting sale has attracted many buyers from all the surrounding country as well as in Union City. This sale will continue until Saturday night, February 19th. It will pay you to attend this sale as often as possible. You will find some money saving Bargains at every visit. **EVERYTHING IN THE STORE IS REDUCED.**

Girl's Wool Suits \$1.48

We still have a few of those Girls' Suits, Jacket and Skirt. These sold formerly up to \$14.00; your choice, each **\$1.48**

WOMEN'S GOOD WARM WOOL CLOAKS 98c

We have left a few of these Cloaks. They were bought to sell at from \$10 to \$15 each; to clear them out, your choice **98c**

Ladies' Fine White Wool Serge Suits for \$3.48

If you come soon you may still be able to secure one of these wonderful Bargains. They are worth up to \$16.50; sale price **\$3.48**

Ladies' Cambric Combination Suits for 25c

These were bought to sell at 65c, and were a good value at that. Sale price **25c** now, each

Ladies' 25c Tan Hose now 10c

These are full value 25c grade hose. To clear them out you may have them **10c** at, a pair

Good Book Fold Dress Gingham, a yard, 8c

These Ginghams are really worth to-day 12½c a yard. We have been selling them for 10c. During this sale, a yard **8c**

Muslin Underwear at Money Saving Prices

Bear in mind that during this wonderful sale everything you buy will save you money. Reduced prices on everything. Hosiery, Underwear, Silks, Dress Goods, White Goods, Laces, Embroideries, Ribbons, Linens, Toweling, and in fact every article in the store at Bargain prices.

This Sale Will Last Until Saturday Night, Feb. 19th

Everybody come. If you haven't yet been in you have missed a good chance. Don't delay any longer.

R.T. CURLIN, UNION CITY, TENN.

RUMORS OF BELGIAN

PEACE PERSISTENT

Report England Using Pressure on Albert Against It.

Washington, Feb. 6.—Renewed reports that Belgium is considering concluding a separate peace with Germany, corroborating news to this effect two weeks ago, were widely discussed to-day in diplomatic circles. Out of this discussion there came from an official in close touch with the German embassy a statement which may be taken to express authoritatively the past, present and future attitude of the German government regarding Belgium. The viewpoint of Berlin, following rapidly changing developments, may be summarized as follows:

First—Before the war Germany regarded the treaty of Ghent, by which the neutrality of Belgium was guaranteed by all the signatories, as binding upon Belgium as upon any of the guarantors.

Second—Before the war Germany regarded the building of frontier fortifications facing Germany, the fortifying of Antwerp and the maintaining of a large standing army all violations of neutrality on the part of Belgium itself.

Third—Before the war Germany came into possession of documentary evidence, since published, that proved that Belgium had entered into a secret agreement with Great Britain by the terms of which Belgium could count on British aid in the event of Germany's violating her guarantees.

Fourth—Before the war Germany reached the conclusion that Belgium had thus herself abrogated the agreement in the various instances cited and that, in view of these facts, Germany was no longer bound to observe a neutrality which was in fact not neutrality.

OCCUPATION NEVER INTENDED.

Fifth—On the declaration of war, as explained by the German chancellor in a speech which has been distorted in allied countries and in the United States, Germany's contention was in effect that the invasion of France was quite as much a violation of previously existing treaties as was the invasion of Belgium; but that all declarations of war are violation of such treaties,

obviously.

Sixth—On the declaration of war Belgium received the pledges of Germany that passage of German troops thru her territory would not mean occupation of that territory, but with armed resistance, Germany was at war with Belgium quite as much as with France.

Seventh—In the early days of the war it was unquestionably this armed resistance by Belgium, in the opinion of the German government, which led to the failure of the original plans of the German general staff and prevented a speedy victory over the French.

Eighth—Although the original German plans never included any idea of occupying any part of Belgium, there was a period in which certain counsellors advocated permanent occupation of that country, basing their arguments on the indisputable fact of Belgian resistance and its corollary that to the victors belong the spoils.

Ninth—At the present time these counsels have been overcome by others of far shrewder kind—counsels which advocate restoring Belgium and thus making peace not only possible, but sure, unless the allies wish to face the world with an admission that their original, loudly proclaimed motives for rushing to aid of stricken Belgium were in fact not their motives.

USE PRESSURE ON KING ALBERT

The discussion out of which this information came was begun by a reference to the announcement of the London press bureau of the recent visit of Earl Curzon and Gen. Sir Douglas Haig, commander-in-chief of the British forces in France, to Albert, King of the Belgians. It was pointed out that coincident with this official announcement came a dispatch from The Hague forwarding Berlin advices regarding negotiations said to be in progress between Germany and King Albert for the signing of a separate peace by Belgium.

The official quoted, whose position as regards the German government is such as to make any statement he utters authoritative, confirmed this report.

"The papers were quite right when they printed this news a fortnight ago," he said. "Personally my opinion is that it was this news which caused Earl Curzon and Sir Douglas Haig to make their hasty visit to King Albert. The date of their visit

coincides approximately with the date of the arrival of that issue of the newspapers in England.

"But it is assuredly of little importance, this visit of the representative of the nation that proudly and loudly declared it entered the war for the sole purpose of restoring Belgium, to show that this visit, in fact, was for the purpose of coercing King Albert to refuse the German offer. The important thing is to show that the German offer is sincere and may be expected to eventually be accomplished."

BELGIUM VIOLATED TREATY

"No more recently than this afternoon in my club I was obliged to listen to a member of the United States Government proclaim his opinion that sympathy for Germany by citizens of this country had been rendered forever impossible by 'Belgium and the Lusitania,' to quote him literally. I have heard this statement many times and have always remained silent. But at this time it seems to me it may be possible to suggest that there are two sides even to 'Belgium.'"

"So far as the German-Belgian question is concerned, the facts are simple. Germany was admittedly a signatory of the treaty which guaranteed the neutrality of Belgium. But the German view is that Belgium herself was quite as much bound by that treaty as were the signatories bound to guarantee it.

"The German view is that Belgium did not observe neutrality, violations of neutrality having occurred long before the outbreak of the war. These violations were seven. There was the matter of frontier forts facing Germany. There were no fortifications built on the French frontier. Antwerp became a fortified city. The treaty specifically

prohibited the fortification of Antwerp. And then there was the Belgian standing army, a highly trained, efficient body of troops whose skill and efficiency and bravery no one better than the German soldier can praise.

"Should a country whose neutrality has been guaranteed maintain armed forces whose whole reason for being was anticipation of a violation of neutrality by only one of the guarantors? The German view is that such an action is unethical.

BELGIUM INVITED HER FATE.

"The German government came into possession of documentary evidence that Belgium was negotiating a secret agreement with Great Britain months prior to the beginning of the war. These proofs appear in every white and yellow and blue book that any of the allied nations has published.

"The British contention is that the documents, whose authenticity they do not dispute, do not constitute a breach of neutrality. The British contention calmly assumes that Belgium was justified by after events in distrusting the bona fides of Germany. The German contention is that even if this engaging in secret arrangements by Belgium with a country which every one knew sooner or later must come to grips with Germany was not a breach of neutrality, it certainly invited exactly what happened. To attempt to justify this secret plotting against Germany on the grounds that after events proved the need of it seems to the German mind false reasoning.

"Is it not more nearly accurate to say that any compunctions Germany would otherwise have had were dissipated by the knowledge that Belgium had engaged in this secret plotting?

"Germany so regards it.

Germany feels sure that had there been no secret agreement with Great Britain by which Belgium could count on British aid in resisting the passage of German troops thru her territory, Belgium would never have offered resistance, but would have followed exactly the same course adopted by Greece. Without an England at her back, Belgium would have realized that resistance to Germany was futile. Who will say that anything except a similar realization has driven King Constantine into submitting to the passage of the

allied troops thru his country.

NEW COUNSELS PREVAIL.

"Germany originally had no intention of occupying any part of Belgium permanently. Pledges to this effect were offered Belgium on the outbreak of the war. She met them with armed resistance.

"No one in Germany who is at all well informed will deny that it was this resistance which undid the original plans of the German general staff, which prevented the originally planned, speedy conquest of France. It was Belgium, in the German opinion, that upset the whole course of German arms in the first year of war.

"And out of this knowledge there arose for a time in Germany a demand that Belgium be retained permanently by Germany. Those who knew history remembered that Napoleon had called Antwerp 'a pistol pointed at the heart of England.' And for a time these counsels prevailed and permanent occupation of the Belgian territory won in the face of armed resistance was planned by the German authorities.

"But recently a much shrewder

FAMILY AVOIDS SERIOUS SICKNESS

By Being Constantly Supplied With
Thedford's Black-Draught.

McDuff, Va.—"I suffered for several years," says Mrs. J. B. Whitaker, of this place, "with sick headache, and stomach trouble."

Ten years ago a friend told me to try Thedford's Black-Draught, which I did, and I found it to be the best family medicine for young and old.

I keep Black-Draught on hand all the time now, and when my children feel a little bad, they ask me for a dose, and it does them more good than any medicine they ever tried.

We never have a long spell of sickness in our family, since we commenced using Black-Draught."

Thedford's Black-Draught is purely vegetable, and has been found to regulate weak stomachs, aid digestion, relieve indigestion, colic, wind, nausea, headache, sick stomach, and similar symptoms.

It has been in constant use for more than 70 years, and has benefited more than a million people.

Your druggist sells and recommends Black-Draught. Price only 25c. Get a package to-day.

Cut Your Store Bill Down One Half

Tens of thousands of farmers as well as town and city folks cut down their store bills one-half last year and saved money in spite of generally short crops and reduced wages.

Absolutely millions of dollars were saved and countless families lived better than ever before in the face of the cotton crisis and general business depression.

How were these burdensome store bills cut down? By the real money-saving power of good home gardens, rightly planted and kept planted and tended through the season.

Hastings 1916 Seed Catalogue tells how to cut store bills down; tells about garden and farm seeds of kinds and a quality that cannot be bought from your merchant or druggist. It's full of garden and farm information. It's free if you ask for it. Write for it now. H. G. HASTINGS CO., Atlanta, Ga.—(Adv.)

plan has been developed. To restore Belgium to the Belgians, in the German opinion, would be the greatest political achievement conceivable. It must be understood in order to appreciate the value of the plan fully that there is in Germany—as in every one of the belligerent countries—an honest desire among the people for end of hostilities. To all demands that Germany put forth peace feelers there has been presented the irrefutable argument that such an action would be construed by her enemies as a sign of weakness and would spur them on to redoubled efforts.

FIGHTING COMMERCIAL FOE.

"Germany cannot afford thus to hearten her foes. But if the negotiations with King Albert are concluded successfully, peace must follow automatically. The only alternative, according to German view, is for Great Britain and France to admit that the cause for which Mr. Asquith nobly declared the British were fighting, the restoration of Belgium, is not the cause at all.

"With Germany and Belgium at peace it might even become necessary for Great Britain to tell the truth and admit she is fighting to crush her greatest commercial competitor."

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—ROY F. BIRD.

For all run-down, weak, nervous conditions of men and women, nothing equals Vinol, our delicious cod liver and iron tonic without oil. Try it on our guarantee.

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